

MAR 10 1963

Approved For Release 2000/04/14 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000400020037-9

Urge U.S. End Vietnam War

WASHINGTON — An open letter to President Kennedy, citing "the mounting opposition of American public opinion" to U.S. intervention in South Vietnam, was made public yesterday. It was signed by more than 55 prominent American citizens.

Signers included Dr. John A. Mackay, president emeritus, Princeton Theological Seminary, Prof. Pitrim A. Sorokin, Harvard University, Rev. John Haynes Holmes, minister emeritus, Community Church of New York, Gen. Hugh B. Hester, U.S. Army (ret.), Prof. Linus Paulding, Mrs. Anne (Cyrus S.) Eaton, and Dr. Corliss Lamont.

The letter urged the President "to make far-reaching changes in our policy in that troubled area before the situation deteriorates further" and added:

"Ever since 1954 the U.S. has been working for an 'American' solution for Vietnam — that is, to keep the country divided, so that at least one segment of it remains under Western control and becomes a bastion of anti-Communist strength.

"To achieve these ends, America has supported the tyrannical Diem regime against the National Liberation Front, a coalition of different political parties, ethnic groups and religious communities.

"These elements, as well as other groups outside the Front, have resorted to guerilla fighting or military coups to unseat Diem, because he has refused to allow normal democratic procedures for political opposition and an orderly change of government."

The letter appealed to the President to end the "abortive and unilateral effort" at a military solution in South Vietnam, and instead to utilize diplomacy and international negotiations, as was done in Laos.

STATINTL

CPYRGHT